

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph, of the English translation, beginning on page 23 at line 20 with the following:

When the bonding ends, the first changeover switches 33b, 34b are turned off, and the changeover switches 37a, ~~38b~~ 38a of the first and second earth changing sections 37, 38 are changed into the state shown by the chain line of FIG. 2. Moreover, the gas is introduced into the chamber 1 via the gas supply tube 14, and the pressure in the chamber 1 is raised. Accordingly, the first and second substrates 7 and 8 bonded together are pressurized with a pressure larger than that at the time of the bonding, by the difference pressure between the pressures between one pair of substrates 7, 8 and in the chamber 1 and therefore an interval between the substrates 7, 8 is set to a predetermined value.

**Applicant:** Iwami et al.  
**Application No.:** 10/725,983

**IN THE DRAWINGS**

Please replace Figure 3 with the figure in the appended replacement drawing sheet.